



# County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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WILLIAM T FUJIOKA  
Chief Executive Officer

August 3, 2009

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: William T Fujioka

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## LAC+USC MEDICAL CENTER ROOF TOP HELIPORT

This is to advise you that effective today, the roof top heliport on the Diagnostic and Treatment Building (D&T) Building at the LAC+USC Medical Center, has resumed operation. As you know, in February 2009, the Department of Health Services (DHS) temporarily suspended the use of the roof top heliport in response to employee concerns over odors from exhaust fumes entering the building during helicopter landings.

Since that time, the Department of Public Works (Public Works) conducted an exhaustive investigation which determined that the sophisticated system of carbon filters in the building's air intakes that were specifically designed to remove any airborne contaminants, were improperly installed, which impaired the effectiveness of the overall filter system. In March 2009, the installation errors were corrected by the vendor at no cost to the County. In addition, the filters, which had been in place for nearly a year, were replaced.

Following the filter replacement, a series of helicopter landings were conducted and air quality samples were collected for laboratory analysis by an independent air quality consultant. These samples confirmed that the air filters were working properly and that **air within the building met all health standards**. Despite this determination, in certain tests, particularly when landing the Sikorsky, the largest of the helicopters used to transport patients, employees from portions of the building served by particular air handlers continued to complain of odors during helicopter landings.

While the investigation has clearly determined that these odors do not pose a health issue, Public Works and DHS studied options to enhance the carbon filtration system. Following an intensive review, which included live helicopter landings and additional laboratory analysis, Public Works and DHS selected an air filtration system that is used over air intakes at the terminal buildings at Los Angeles International Airport, to augment the air filtration system at the LAC+USC Medical Center.

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"*

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Installation of the enhanced filters has been completed and the Emergency Medical Services Agency has been notified that air transport providers can resume roof top landings beginning today.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact David Howard of Public Works at (626) 300-2300 or Pete Delgado of DHS' LAC+USC Medical Center at (323) 409-2800.

WTF:SRH:DL  
DJT:DKM:mc

c: County Counsel  
Department of Health Services  
Department of Public Works